[6th September 1928

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"May I know whether a toddy vendor or an arrack seller is on that board?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"I believe there is a representative of that class on the board."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"May I know whether the hon. the Minister is getting any periodical reports from what he calls the Excise Advisory Committee of that district?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"The Excise Advisory Committee do not correspond with the Government; their proceedings go to the Collector who forwards them to the Excise Commissioner."

Action taken on the recommendations of the Excise Advisory Committees.

*177 Q.—Mr. A. PARASURAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) the extent to which the recommendations of the Excise Advisory Committees have been given effect to;

(b) whether any reports are received from the Collectors regarding the recommendations of such advisory committees and how many of them have been given effect to; and

(c) whether any of such committees recommended—

(1) the closure of any toddy or arrack shop;

(2) the introduction of rationing system;

(3) the removal of those shops from localities where it is objectionable to have them; and what action has been taken thereon?

A.—(a) The hon. Member will find the information required in Appendix B of the Annual Excise Administration Report.

(b) An annual report is received from the Commissioner of Excise but not from Collectors.

(c) (1) Yes.

(2) Not so far as Government are aware.

(3) Yes. The action taken is detailed in the Administration Reports.

Education of the people on the evils of drink.

*178 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state the proposals under the consideration of the Government for the education of the people on the evils of drink and the anti-drink propaganda?

A.—The Excise Advisory Committee has made the following proposals:—

(1) that a definite sum of money should be earmarked for expenditure each year for propaganda work to discourage the drink habit;

(2) that the propaganda work, which is now being done by private societies, should be subsidized;

(3) that an organization on the lines of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society should be formed for propaganda work; and

(4) that attempts should be made, if possible, to carry out propaganda work through the agency of village panchayats, co-operative societies, etc.